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irregular plurals. In the same paragraph Dr. JESSEN repeats his dogma of the plural ending *-er*. To the list of weak verbs in par. 120, b, suffering vowel change in the stem, or better expressed, as in MÖBIUS' "Dänische Formenlehre," showing *Rückumlaut* in the preterite and the past participle, should be added *sætter*, *siger*, *lægger* and *gjør*, described in the following par. as "miscellaneous anomalies." The rest of the verbs in this list are better defined as preterito presents. This classification is followed by MÖBIUS and is in every way preferable. To the strong verbs given in par. 121, b, should be added *ager*, *dryber*, *kiger*, *klyver*, *knækker*, *svelter* and *vejer*. While the strong preterites are rare, they can be found in modern literature.

The last chapter contains a full discussion of Danish syntax. A more satisfactory treatment of the construction, *det er mig*, "it is me," may be found in O. JESPERSEN'S "Studier over Engelske Kasus," p. 137. JESSEN dismisses it curtly as a fault common to English and Danish. His criticism of the distinction between *hinanden* and *hverandre* as "inconvenient but etymologically correct," is open to doubt; correct it certainly is. The first appendix, on poetical language, is little more than an orthographical discussion, in which the writer's positions are defended by the decidedly dangerous method of poetical authority. The second appendix, on Older Danish, is very short and offers nothing worthy of special mention, while the third and last resembles the first in its polemical character.

In concluding, I can not do better than quote the late Prof. MÖBIUS' notice of Dr. JESSEN'S first attempt in grammatical study, "Dansk Sproglære, Copenhagen, 1868," which, taking into account the far greater extent of the present work, applies equally to his "Dansk Grammatik":

"Dieses kleine, ebenso inhaltsreiche wie durch die mancherlei neuen und eigenthümlichen Gesichtspunkte höchst anregende Buch enthält in knappster Form, was sich dem Vf. an Resultaten seiner mehrfachen Einzeluntersuchungen auf dem Gebiete dänischer Gram. ergeben hat."

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THE OLDER EDDA.

Codex Regius af den Ældre Edda. Udg. af LUDV. F. A. WIMMER og Finnur Jónsson. Copenhagen: 1891, 4to.

Ordbog over det gamle norske Sprog, af Dr. JOHAN FRITZNER. Omarbejdet, forøget og forbedret Udgave. I-II. Christiania: Den norske Forlagsforening, 1883-1891. 8vo.

THE phototype and diplomatic edition of the 'Elder' Edda announced last year by the "Society for Publishing Old Northern Literature" appeared this last summer. I have, once before, called the attention of the readers of MOD. LANG. NOTES to this publication, and I beg leave to remind them of it again, now that it is on the market.

This manuscript, the most valuable monument in the whole Royal Library of Copenhagen, from whose loss the greatest detriment would result to Scandinavian science and literature, has been laid here before the public in a shape worthy of its great importance.

The book contains; first, a minute description of the manuscript, its history, and its peculiarities as to binding, form, writing, spelling, etc. Then follow, side by side, the two reproductions of the text, the phototype and the diplomatic. The phototype plates were prepared by Mr. CRONE of Copenhagen, and they represent, no doubt, the best that photographic art can produce in this line. The technical process by which the text has been reproduced does not enable us to distinguish the headings of the several poems in the phototype reproduction, since these head lines were originally written in a reddish brown ink which is now so faded, even in the original vellum manuscript, that most of them can be deciphered only under the most favorable conditions. The painted initials, however, which are written respectively in red and green ink, or in both, are still plainly visible in almost every case.

I have carefully gone through a great part of the diplomatic transcription of the text, but I have as yet failed to find any errors or omissions. Comment is made on almost every line of the text, while the last part of the book consists of remarks setting forth in each case, peculiarities, errors, omissions, etc.

It is a great task that the "Society" has accomplished in publishing this edition of the 'Edda,' and accomplished in a satisfactory manner. Every student of the Edda is enabled, by this work, to form an independent judgment of all questions pertaining to text criticism.

In appropriating about \$1200. (cost of the Phototype plates) toward the expenses of this publication, the Danish Government has made amends to a certain limited extent for its unpardonable indifference as to the manner in which the treasures of the Royal library are housed. These are kept in a wing of the Cendshanoborg Castle, which may be endangered by fire on all sides, and whose old wooden floors, shelves, etc., make it a veritable tinder-box.

The second volume of Dr. FRITZNER'S Dictionary of the Old Norse language, has just been completed by the appearance of its 19th part, the work thus being carried down to the letter *P*, inclusive. The definitions of the words are in the Dano-Norwegian language, so that the Dictionary can, of course, be of use only to those students of the Old Norse-Icelandic tongue who are familiar with this Scandinavian idiom.

What especially distinguishes this dictionary from its predecessors, are the thoroughness and fullness of its quotations, the exhaustive treatment of everything pertaining to institutions, laws, customs, traditions, etc., so that the book, besides being a dictionary, may serve to a large extent as an encyclopædia for the Scandinavian Old and Middle ages. The chief objection to the work, arises from the author's habit of explaining words rather than translating them. This defect is not of any great importance as far as English-speaking students are concerned, but it greatly impairs the value of the book for Scandinavian students, learning the elements of the language, who would seek in the dictionary models for correct translation. Objection might also be raised against the author's way of spelling the old words, chiefly as regards the vowel sounds, but this is, to the advanced student, a matter of comparatively slight importance.

Nearly nine years have passed since the first

part of this Dictionary appeared; the publication of the work is therefore making pretty slow progress, but it is probably carried on as fast as is consistent with a thorough and reliable preparation of the material. It is to be hoped that the author, who is already advanced in years, may be spared time to finish this the crowning work of his life.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE PEDAGOGICAL SECTION.

OF THE

Modern Language Association of America.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—As President of the Pedagogical Section of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION, I desire to invoke the attention of my colleagues to the interests of this department, for the approaching meeting of the Association in Washington.

The papers presented to the Association, as well as those published in the MOD. LANG. NOTES, have been mainly concerned with the higher questions of scholarship and criticism. This is as it should be; for our foremost ranks must lead our progress and point the way of future advance. But not the less do the fundamental questions of our pedagogy maintain a deep and enduring interest. For on these depend the foundations of our scholarship; and on these foundations, for those who shall come after us, must be built the scholarship that shall hereafter guide and extend the progress of our profession. And not only the scholarship but also the inspiration, as well as the conception—higher or lower—of the true character and object of our studies and our discipline. This is not a question of *method* merely—which at last must be largely individual—but of intellectual and moral purpose and effort, on which will depend not simply the value of our work as teachers in school or college, but also the rank which our discipline shall hold, in fact and in public opinion, as a factor in education and in human